(a) the details of hybrid food crop varieties developed by ICAR;

(b) the details of production-protection technologies of the above crops; and

(c) to what extent the details on (a) and (b) above helped the Andhra Pradesh to improve its agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed a number of hybrids in different food crops. In rice, hybrids such as KRH2, PA6201, 6444 and Suruchi 5401 have been popular. Similarly in other food crops popular hybrids have been developed such as DHM 103, DHM 105, paras, Buland, Trishulata in maize; CSH 16, CSH 18 in Sorghum and GHB 558, Nandi 35, MLBH 504, PAC 903 in Pearl Millet. Seed production technology of released hybrids has been developed. The integrated crop production and protection technologies have also been developed. System for Rice Intensification (SRI) method of cultivation has been found effective in enhancing the production and productivity of rice in various parts of the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The adoption of these hybrids and their production-protection technologies have helped in enhancing the productivity of food grains in Andhra Pradesh where the food grain productivity has increased from 709 kg. per hectare during 1965-66 to 2012 kg. per hectare during 2003-04.

Food Policy

1959. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to forumlate comprehensive Food Policy in view of instability in production of foodgrains, pulses and sugar;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the new Food Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has a comprehensive food policy under which Minimum Support Price (MSP)

operations are carried out by the Government agencies (Food Corporation of India and State agencies) in districts all over the country where there is marketable surplus of foodgrains. Farmers have the option to sell their produce at MSP or in the open market, as is advantageous to them. This policy ensures that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. This also enables the Government to procure foodgrains for servicing the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and welfare schemes. Maintenance of a buffer stock of foodgrains to ensure food security is also one of the important obejctives of food policy.

Oilseeds production

1960. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rabi oilseeds production is projected to decline by 11.3 lakh tonnes this year, maintly due to fall in coverage of the crop by over 10 lakh hectares;

(b) if so, whether in the first trade estimate of rabi oilseed crops made by the Central Statistical Organisation for oil industry and trade, the production has been pegged to 91.4 lakh tonnes against 102.7 lakh tonnes last year;

(c) whether the overall production may fall by 20 lakh tonnes;

(d) if so, whether there would be shortage of oilseeds output in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per the 2nd advance estimates released on 05-02-2007 by the Ministry, rabi oilseeds production for 2006-07 is estimated at 99.05 lakh tonnes compared to 112.11 lakh tonnes in 2005-06, showing a fall of 13.06 lakh tonnes. The area coverage under rabi oilseeds for 2006-07 is estimated at 91.74 lakh hectares compared to 104.94 lakh hectares in 2005-06, showing a fall of 13.20 lakh hectares.

(b) As per the information received from the Central Organization for Oil Industry and Trade (COOIT), the estimated rabi oilseeds production as on 27-01-2007 is 91.4 lakh tonnes for 2006-07 compared to 102.7 lakh tonnes for 2005-06.